Thousands Leave Offices As Bomb Scares Spread

By FRANK J. PRIAL

Thousands of workers and executives in commercial and government office buildings in New York, New Jersey and on Long Island were evacuated temporarily or sent home for the day yesterday following a rash of anonymous, telephoned bomb threats.

The police were unable to determine the exact number of persons involved, but an unofficial count, based on reports from people in the evacuated buildings, put the figure between 10,000 and 15,000.

At the United States Court House in Foley Square, where about 1,000 people were evacuated between 10:30 and 11:45 A.M., Judge Morris E. Lasker continued to conduct court business on the sidewalk. When a jury foreman told him no verdict could be reached in a case over which he had been presiding, Judge Lasker declared a mistrial, dismissed the jury and instructed his clerk to enter the decision in the court records when the evacuation ended.

Judge Edward Weinfeld stood around on the sidewalk for a few minutes, then went off to get a haircut. "I've been trying to for two weeks," he said.

Like Judge Weinfeld, most people involved in the evacuations took them good-naturedly. Some, while concerned about the possibility that the threats might be genuine, were happy about the prospect of a few hours of excitement, or even a day off. Most of the evacuees got about an hour off while the police searched their offices, but some, who were asked to leave later in the afternon, were told not to return until today.

One office manager at 10 Columbus Circle, reached at home, said he had taken the rest of the afternoon off because he doubted if any of his employes had returned when the emergency ended.

Scare in Brooklyn

In Brooklyn, another 1,000 people were evacuated at about 9:40 A.M. from the 6-story United States Court House at 225 Cadman Plaza East after a man described as "well-spoken" telephoned the Federal Bureau of Investigation to say that two bombs had been placed in the building. The evacuees included employes in the adjoining four-story Internal Revenue Service Building at 35 Tillary Street.

The emergency was ended at 11:20, but employes were told to take a long lunch hour and return at 1 P.M.

At 10:10 A.M., the police received a call that a bomb had been placed on one of the lower floors of the Pan Am Building, adjacent to Grand Central Terminal. Occupants of the first 10 floors were advised to leave while a search was conducted.

Several thousand of them congregated in the main waiting room at Grand Central and in the streets around the building. They included more than 700 young women, all secretarial students of the Katharine Gibbs School in the Pan Am Building. The police declared the building safe at 11:30 A.M.

Employes Get Option

At the Mutual Benefit Insurance Building, 680 Fifth Avenue, employes were given the option of leaving or staying after the police received a report of a bomb in the building. Employes in several offices on lower floors, including that of the Canadian Consul General here, elected to leave.

A street-floor ticket office of Lufthansa German Airlines closed for the day, and customers were advised to call a number posted in the window. The offices on upper floors, including that of the Commissioner of Baseball, remained open for the day.

The office building at 10 Columbus Circle, adjacent to the New York Coliseum, was virtually shut for the day after a bomb threat was received there around 1:45 P.M. The building houses the offices of The Diner's Club, National Educational Television and the New York Football Giants, among others. One employe estimated that "2,000 or 3,000 people" had left for the day, even though the alarm was ended around 3:30 P.M.

Nin efloors of the RAC Building, at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, were evacuated just after 9 A.M. when a bomb call was received. The alert was ended at 9:30 A.M.

At 25 Broadway, in the Wall Street district, the Anaconda Corporation got a bomb-threat call at 8:40 A.M. The few persons then in the building were evacuated, and those arriving for work at 9 A.M. were kept outside or in the lobby until the police ha dchecked the offices.

In Mineola, L. I., several hundred people were evacuated from four Nassau County court buildings and one government services building after an unidentified woman called police headquarters in Mineola and warned that a bomb would go off in a county court building.

Three newspapers received bomb-threat calls yesterday: The Daily News, The New York Times, an dNewsday in Garden City, L. I. Only The Times evacuated its buildings.

In Trenton, a building housin state offices adjacent to the State Capitol was evacuated afer the police received a threatening call.

Grand Central Terminal received a bomb-threat call at 4:29 A.M. Railroad and city policemen an dfiremen searched the tracks and platforms, and power was shut off fro m5:32 to 6:10 A.M.

The bomb calls reached as far as Washington, where a police squa dsearched five Federal buildings after an anonymous caller said the Justice Department would be "blown up."